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HONDURAS.

Report from Ceiba, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Robertson reports as follows: Week ended August 15, 1904. Present officially estimated population about 4,000; no deaths; prevailing diseases, malarial, mostly of mild type; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
1904.					
Aug. 7	Columbia.....	18	0	0	0
11	Origen.....	23	0	0	0
12	Katie.....	23	0	0	0
12	Managua.....	15	6	0	0

Quarantine certificates withheld from the bills of health of the steamships *Columbia* and *Managua*.

Report from Puerto Cortez, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Carter reports as follows: Week ended August 16, 1904. Present officially estimated population, 2,125; one death; prevailing diseases, malarial fever of mild type and intestinal diseases; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Aug. 11	Beverly.....	43	11	7	0
12	Bratten.....	16	0	0	0
13	Espana.....	14	0	3	0
15	Helen.....	20	3	0	0

Number of aliens sailing from this port during week, 2.

INDIA.

Reports from Bombay—Cholera, plague, and smallpox.

Acting Asst. Surg. Edward H. Hume reports, July 23, as follows:

Mortality of Bombay City, week ended July 19, 1904.

	Week ended—	
	July 19, 1904.	July 12, 1904.
Plague attacks.....	62	35
Plague deaths.....	58	33
Plague mortality per 1,000.....	3.88	2.21
Smallpox deaths.....	6	10
Cholera deaths.....	0	0
Total deaths.....	569	543
Total mortality per 1,000.....	38.12	36.38

It will be noted that plague is definitely worse than last week. As usual, Mandvi is the ward worst affected, and the Jains the race suffering most.

Mortality in Bombay during first half of year 1904.

I transmit herewith a table which will serve as a study of the deaths in Bombay during the first half of 1904, by races and classes. There are two figures given in each week's record by races and classes. The first, marked "P. D.," gives the plague deaths for the week, and the second, marked "T. D.," gives the total deaths.

For convenience in study I have grouped the races under nine headings: 1, Hindus, including all the castes; 2, Mohammedans, including the Khojas; 3, Parsis; 4 native Christians, both Roman Catholic and Protestant; 5, Jains, to whom fuller reference is made below; 6, Jews, including the Beni-Israelites, or those who come of mixed Hebrew and Hindu stock; 7, Eurasians; 8, Europeans; 9, others, including negro Africans, Buddhists, and other and unknown castes.

Under each column I have given the population of that particular race or caste, the total population of Bombay City being 776,006.

The totals for plague deaths and total deaths for the six months are given at the bottom, and still below them two sets of death rates—the first set of figures giving the death rates by caste, based on the total population of the city, the second set giving the death rates based on the population of the given race or caste.

Several striking facts are to be observed—

1. That the Europeans have the lowest death rate in the city from plague, relatively to their numbers; also that their total death rate, relatively to their numbers, is lower (18.98 per mille per annum) than that of any other race in the city.

2. That the Parsis, the cleanest of the native races, have the next lowest relative death rate from plague.

3. That the Jains have by far the highest death rate from plague as well as from all causes combined. In my letter of July 22 I called attention to the fact that the Jains, a race akin to the Hindoos, and yet distinct from them, are worshippers of life in every form. They can not take the life of any creature, be it bug, insect, venomous reptile, or any other living thing. Investigations have shown that ants, which abound in the homes of the Jains because of the food provided artificially for them, are capable of conveying plague. The Jains have been from the beginning worse affected than any other race; and the present study shows that plague has been harder on them than on those of other races during 1904. Further, the ratio of plague deaths to total deaths is higher among the Jains than among the other races, as might be expected from the fact that animal life is perhaps more concerned in the transmission of plague than of any of the other devastating diseases. I shall try to make a further study of the liability of the Jains to diseases other than plague.